

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD



WHAT DOES IT SAY TO YOU?

(See page 61)

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The Bible and the Negro

By Robert Russa Moton, LL.D.

Principal Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, and a Vice-President of the American Bible Society.



DR. MOTON

TO no one in America has the Bible meant more than to the Negro. It has profoundly affected every phase of his life, and still remains, though perhaps unconsciously, the most significant factor in his progress and development. The Negro owes to the Bible an incalculable debt of gratitude, since whatever he enjoys of privilege and opportunity in this great country may be traced either directly or indirectly to the constructive influence of the Bible in his own life, and in the life of the nation.

The mind reverts at once to the songs of the Negro race, the "spirituals," which are perhaps the race's most distinctive contribution to America's culture. These songs are drawn directly from the narratives and teachings of the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New. It is some time since Mrs. Corra Harris of "A Circuit Rider's Wife" made the observation that, if the printed record of the Bible should be destroyed, the gospel narrative would

be preserved in all its essentials in the Negro spirituals which embalm the gospel theme from the "fall of Adam" to the "New Jerusalem."

It was the Bible that enabled the Negro to endure the hardships of slavery; that inspired his loyalty even when his own liberty was at issue, and chastened and softened his nature to bring him forth from its travail without discouragement or bitterness. Many have referred in terms of admiration to the gentleness, the humility, the tenderness, and the patience of the Negro; to his forgiving spirit and his unfailing optimism. Whatever of justice there may be in these attributes of praise may be ascribed without exaggeration to the influence of the Bible throughout the whole period of his sojourn in this country.

Education, too, has exerted a strong influence upon the Negro; but it was the host of consecrated men and women, from North and South, during slavery and afterward, whose works and lives were inspired by the teachings of the Bible, that gave to the Negro his first and largest opportunities to profit by the instruction in letters and craftsmanship which lies at the basis of the phenomenal progress the race has made since emancipation. It was the Bible that inspired the preaching to the slaves which many masters encouraged, and which gave to the black man his first acquaintance with the religion of Jesus. It was the Bible that in many cases was the primer from which the Negro learned to read; and one of the most touching of the melodies begins with the words, "O, how I would like to read the sweet story of old."

And when I think of Africa, it is to recognize that it was the influence of the Bible that stopped the devastation of the slave trade, opened up that vast continent to the light and healing of the gospel, and is now doing more than any single factor to emancipate the spirit of its great black population and put them in possession of their God-given heritage.

In this connection, I have only one apprehension, and that is lest, with the increase of educational opportunities, with the advancement toward economic independence, and with the general improvement in the material and social condition of the race, the younger generation of Negroes should pass beyond the stabilizing and inspiring influence of the Bible in shaping their attitudes and ideals and ambitions. Atheists and agnostics are scarce among Negroes—so also are dogmatists and reformers. And it may yet be the lot of the Negro to demonstrate to a skeptical world what it means to be a Christian.

If the Negro shall escape the demoralizing influences which accompany some of our ultra-modern tendencies, it will be due to the wholesome influence of the Bible and a genuine Christian religion, which together constitute perhaps his largest and best acquisition from contact with the civilization of the white man.

Notes and Comments

ANOTHER high record in the distribution of Scriptures was evidently made in 1930 by the workers of the American Bible Society.

* * *

The issues reached a total tentative figure of 11,630,938 Bibles, Testaments, and portions, an advance of half a million and more over any previous year. Complete returns on the issues of Bibles, Testaments and portions have not yet been received from some foreign fields.

* * *

The ten Home Agencies and twelve Foreign Agencies of the Society also report a new high record. Between them they circulated 276,572 Bibles as against 273,789 the year before; 733,390 Testaments as against 499,508 in 1929; and 10,055,293 portions instead of 10,107,181 the previous year. These figures give a total circulation for 1930 by our own Agencies of 11,065,255 as contrasted with 10,880,478 in 1929.

* * *

The Home Agencies circulated practically the same number of Bibles, some 20,000 more Testaments, and about 650,000 more portions. The Foreign Agencies circulated 3,000 more Bibles, 212,000 more Testaments, and 700,000 less portions. Further and final statistics will probably appear as usual in our June issue.

OUR attention has been called to the following rhyme which appeared in the Conning Tower of the late New York *World* in February:

In time of trouble every tribe'll
Find good reading in The Bible.

DR. RAGATZ reports that, with the cooperation of those in charge, he placed a Bible in the cornerstone of Denver's new eight-million-dollar County Court House with a brief statement of the work of the Society, the distribution it accomplished during its history, and the further statement:

"During the year ending December 31, 1930, the Denver Office distributed within the nine states (constituting its territory) 311,798 copies of Scripture printed in 74 different languages and dialects."

DR. J. OSCAR BOYD, Secretary of our Levant Agency, sends on this appreciative message received from the Rev. Vassil Ziapkoff:

"The Executive Committee of the Union of the Bulgarian Evangelical Churches, on behalf of the Union, expresses its gratitude to the American Bible Society for the donation by your Agency of a fine Bulgarian Bible, which

was used by the representatives of the Union for presentation to Their Majesties the King and the Queen of Bulgaria. The share the American Bible Society had in the presentation has been highly appreciated by all United Evangelical Churches."

HERE is a good message from the Rev. Elmer H. Dahle, of the Lutheran Mission in far Alaska:

We have had much pleasure in reading your BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD the past year. It is truly a mission magazine, though I do not know that I have seen it regularly catalogued as such.

I have made use of your Bibles and Testaments in my work with the Eskimos. They prize the little volumes highly. Only the younger generation reads, but the young folks carry their Testaments with them wherever they go, and these show much use, outside as well as inside. Bibles and Testaments are much in evidence at all our services. The Scriptures are about the only books to be found in the average Eskimo home. We have a son of ten years, and when he and the Eskimo boys exchange notes, they do so in terms of Bible passages.

A MISSIONARY in San Francisco, Mrs. M. A. Tennant, relates that recently a girl was in the police court in this city for some minor offense. After being freed, she asked permission to return to her cell for some little booklets left behind, stating these had made her "a different girl." The judge asked one of the policemen to accompany her to the cell for the booklets left behind. The booklets she found and took with her as treasures were the Four Gospels.

SOME new old history. The Rev. T. D. Harari, an Armenian Christian, now in the ministry of the Episcopal Church in this country, tells this story of a sword which has been an exhibit of the Bible Society for many years and is still in evidence:

A man from Tadmor (ancient Palmyra) was on the streets of Homs wearing the usual side sword, when he met a colporteur of the Bible Society. He wanted a Bible, but had no money. On the colporteur suggesting that he turn in his sword, he readily assented and received the Bible in return. This is the sword that found its way to the Bible House. For a real Arabian sword with which he may have killed a great many Bedouins, he obtained the sword of the Spirit!

ANOTHER reference to a service rendered half a century ago was contained in this message from one who has been a donor and lifelong friend of the Society:

Forty-seven years ago I had the pleasure and honor of delivering by pony and buggy through the well-nigh trackless forests of two counties bordering Grand Traverse Bay, Michigan, about 1,500 copies of the Bible, or portions of it; the memories of kindness of people of seven languages in meager circumstances toward me, a total stranger dependent upon them for daily food and lodging, are among my best treasures.

Among the Colored People

THE Agency among the Colored People of the United States, to give its full official title, is thirty years old this year. It was the first Home Agency established and is five years older than any other. It is also the most widespread, since its responsibility extends, with the migration of the people it serves, into different parts of our country. For this reason, as is known, its work is now carried on from four main centers—Atlanta, Charlotte, Houston, and Cleveland.

"Well, It Is a Good Book"

Atlanta is the original headquarters. The Division has a Negro population of approximately 4,250,000 residing in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Florida. From the Rev. D. H. Stanton, Division Secretary, who is now in charge at this center, have come the following happy facts:

"I was making a trip to a young people's meeting last summer. It was in the evening on a crowded train, so crowded that there was difficulty in getting a seat.

"The passengers, for the most part, were of that rough type with which one feels none too comfortable. I looked about to find the passenger with whom I dared take a seat. My eyes fell upon a man with a book open, and apparently reading. But what? Coming closer, I found that the open book was the Bible. We became seat mates at once, and almost as quickly became acquainted. He was intently reading the fourth Psalm, which, he said, he had read every night for nineteen years.

"The conductor, who had shown much impatience with everybody, seemed curious to know why I had decided to sit down. I pointed to the open book. 'Well, it is a good book,' he said, and smiling added, 'This old world would be a different place in which to live if that book were open in every crowd.' Within a few moments he was back again and glanced at the book as he passed; for it was still open. On his return the third time, he asked, 'Finding a joy in reading it, are you?' Joy was so evident, he didn't wait for a reply, but asked if I thought the colored passengers would like to have more room. I answered yes. A car which had had only two white passengers was immediately cleared, and the colored passengers were invited to find comfortable seats for the remainder of the night. I shall not soon forget the incident. I firmly believe that rough crowds, race discrimination, and uncomfortable quarters will all disappear when the Bible is opened in the crowds and hearts of men."

Eager Young Distributors

"A thing that has been strikingly impressive to me has been the interest young people have manifested in our work. There are incidents too numerous to mention where they have literally fallen over themselves to canvass a community, to find families without a Bible, or to carry Testaments and portions to persons when some one has purchased them for them, or to make a sale. During the holidays more than one hundred of the Christmas boxes, containing the New Testament in eleven little volumes, were sold by children. I have found this eagerness among them in different sections where the degrees of intelligence were not the same, and where the communities were very dissimilar. I believe that here is one of our greatest opportunities. By proper direction these youngsters can be made to become the means of carrying the Scriptures to tens of thousands



SOME HAVE, SOME HAVE NOT: ALL WANT BIBLES

of homes in the rural sections of Georgia, So. Carolina, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi.

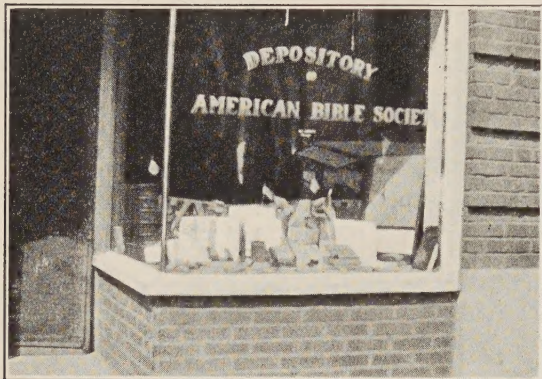
The Bible, a Prime Necessity

The Charlotte Division covers North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, with a Negro population of about 2,500,000. From the Rev. D. H. Sansom, Jr., in charge, we take this brief excerpt:

"News comes from our worker in a tobacco section in Virginia that many have secured Bibles for their homes, feeling them a necessity and saying, further, that the depression had driven them to seek God through studying the Bible.

"One farmer sold his crop of 530 pounds of tobacco and cleared only \$10.10. After purchasing shoes and stockings for the wife and daughter, some sugar and coffee, he had 41 cents left. This farmer had promised a colporteur to purchase a Bible when the crop of tobacco was sold. Finding himself so short of

money, he said to the colporteur, 'I wonder if I could carry some of these stockings back, and get enough money to pay for the Bible?' The colporteur seeing the needs of the family for things material, and discerning an honest interest in the purchasing of a Bible upon the part of the farmer, gave him a copy, and each went his way rejoicing."



CHARLOTTE, N. C., DEPOSITORY

The Bible and House Rent

In the Houston Division, the Rev. M. L. Vaughters has responsibility for the largest area, covering as it does Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, with a Negro population of some 2,300,000. From him come these two incidents:

"An old lady came to the depository looking for a Bible with large print. I showed her one which was just the thing she wanted. But she did not have the money with which to make the purchase. Learning that she was a widow, I offered a considerable discount on the book to make it possible for her to get it. She looked wistfully at the Bible and then looked at me as she reluctantly confessed, 'I have no money except a few dollars for my house rent, and the owner is very mean about his rent money. He says, "Give me the rent or the house." But I am going to run the risk and buy this Bible.' The purchase was made, and she went away happy."

In Time of Want

"One of our workers, who has been with us for quite a while, was deeply touched by the great army of unemployed men standing around the city market, and sitting about on the curbstones. Many of them hardly knew where they would get their next meal. Many were without shelter or friends. What could they be thinking about? What was the nature of their conversations? Criminal ideas were, perhaps, forming in the minds of some of them. Some of them were, perhaps, severely censuring a

civilization that would permit such human suffering. Others, disgusted with life, would gladly welcome an end to their earthly existence. His heart was moved in sympathy for them. But what could he do? Silver and gold he had none. But he did have the Word of God with him. Would they, in their destitute condition, be able to appreciate that? He finally decided to give unto them such as he had. 'Gentlemen,' he said, as he approached them, 'it is a fine thing to read the Bible now, while you are sitting around here with nothing else to do. If you have a penny take a copy of the Scriptures; if not, take one anyway.' It was, indeed, touching to see how eagerly these men reached for these Scripture portions. In a few minutes they were all gone. He left them reading the Word of God."

Instances of Individuals

From Cleveland the Rev. S. A. Lucas endeavors to care for the nearly 1,200,000 Negroes who have found homes in the nine northern states reaching from New England to the Mississippi—New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and across in Iowa. The following comes from him:

"Mr. Marion Welsh, though somewhat aged, gets more joy out of selling one Bible, than many men would get from selling real estate at a large commission. When he comes into the office with his face all aglow, we know at once that he has had a sale. From the expression on his face one might think that he had sold many books, when sometimes it is only a small sale—maybe a five-cent Testament. He finds 'joy in His service.'

"The Rev. J. D. Kent is a Baptist preacher, with a little mission on the west side of Cleveland known as West Park. He finds it a pleasure with his Ford car to distribute the Scriptures in the adjacent neighborhoods. He has a large family, but is doing what he can voluntarily to help spread the gospel.

"A book agent canvassing in our neighborhood saw the sign 'Bibles-Testaments-Portions' in the window of our home. He came in and enquired if we sold Bibles. On learning of the work of the American Bible Society, he said he had heard of the Society, but had not seen one of the penny portions. On seeing one, he bought several, and was glad he came in, even though he did not make a sale of his own book. By means of this sign we have been able to sell quite a number of Scripture volumes from our home.

Universal Bible Sunday

"Universal Bible Sunday has met with favor in many of the churches. We were able to

distribute a goodly number of the penny portions and also of the five-cent Testaments. I have not been able to reach all of the churches, but hope through this means to interest more of our people in Bible reading. Several of the

pastors in the city are putting on a display of Bibles and Testaments in both the church and the Sunday school, and the results have been quite successful, increasing our sales and encouraging Bible reading among the members."

Sowing the Seed in Siam

IN reporting on the work of the Society in Siam, the Rev. Robert Irwin gives extracts from several missionary supervisors. Such supervise both their own staff and the colporteurs employed by the Society in their distribution of Scriptures. They also stimulate voluntary work in this line. The following

"The emigrant and the immigrant in these intervals of time give rare opportunity to the colporteur to introduce the King's business. This must be timely; for in a short while the shuttle, counter, and mill fasten on the industrial classes and practically shut them off from any opportunity to read, care or understand.

"One veteran colporteur elder in the midst of his distribution has carried on stated supply duties and evangelistic work among the country groups of Christians. His last report shows that his exhortation of Christian families to unite as a whole with the church has had good results. Nine children and two adults were prepared for baptism. He also found thirty Christian immigrants scattered in previously unknown places."

The second supervisor writes:

"All of my books here are carefully placed throughout the four *dumbons* near Kantang on the coast. . . . We saw many persons sitting in their homes reading the Gospels a couple of days after we had finished. *The books are read.* The only limit to this work is our own.

"I am leaving on Thursday's boat for Grabee and points north along the west coast. We have just finished the thorough distribution of eighteen *dumbons* in the countryside around Kantang, and I must say there is scarcely a house that hasn't a Gospel. It is a pleasure to go along almost any section and find people who

are reading or have already read about our Saviour. It is a great way to preach, I do believe, and it is permanent; for, when the seed does fall on good soil, the message is there in the hands to help that one grow to know Christ better. The spoken word is so soon forgotten!

"Our touring



A CANAL STREET IN BANGKOK

quotations are from two of these supervisors. The first writes:

"The Chinese church in Bangkok has undertaken the responsibility for the extensive distribution of the Scriptures. The workers have met incoming and outgoing steamers regularly. Canal and river boats, business districts and evangelistic meetings, have had their quota of distribution.

"An energetic sidewalk book and periodical dealer, who persists in taking squatters' rights in front of one of our street chapels, entered into a gentleman's agreement which engages him to offer Bible portions to each of his customers. His case of Scriptures needs constant refilling.

"Passengers on river craft and trams en route to inland towns, and larger groups returning to China, 300 to 700 each week, have leisure to read and they are eager to receive the Gospel portions, especially those with colored illustrations. Immigrants, 500 to 2,000 each week, are visited by the colporteurs during their one or two days' detention for examination and registration at department headquarters.



TAI SONG MOTHER AND
BABE, PETCHABURI
PROVINCE

has just ended at Patalung. The *changvadt* included twenty *dumbons*, and we covered every one to the last house with a Gospel of Luke or John. It involved a little over 15,000 Gospels. It is an almost entirely Siamese section, with only a few Malay and Chinese at the market. The rains were on, and so shoes

were impossible. Water reached at times from the ankles to the neck, and once I had to swim.

"It may interest you to know that a friend of mine has just spent a month at Singora, and while there it occurred to him to ask how many had a Gospel. He could not find a person who did not have one. I think that is pretty good."

A Sheaf from Brazil

DR. TUCKER has sent a generous sheaf of accounts of work and incidents from several correspondents who participate in the work of the Brazil Agency. Fortunately, they are also accompanied by pictures. Unfortunately, a due respect for other phases of the work of the Society and a proper limit to the number of pages of the RECORD prevent the use of all the extracts or all the pictures. The three here given show that the day of pioneers, of persecution, and of fulfilled promises is not past.

Pioneering

Here are two stories in one which quicken one's pulse. Nor need there be a comparison between the valor and enthusiasm which took one pioneer over thousands of miles in unknown regions in a few weeks, and the courage and consecration which led another pioneer to bury himself for a score of years in unheralded work for the people of a limited region. Both are worthy of high admiration.

One of the most efficient correspondents of the Brazil Agency, who delights in pioneer exploits, reports on a long automobile journey through an extensive interior region, and tells of the other pioneer he met. The following are a few paragraphs:

"Maranhão is the sixth largest state of the republic, and its area is equal to that of Great Britain and Portugal. Its northern extremity is but one degree south of the equator, and it extends to ten degrees in the same direction. It seemed too far and too uncertain for a troop journey, and too venturesome and expensive for a motor trip. Yet, there came a day when a sequence of circumstances and providences seemed to force one's hands. So, with our car laden with Bibles, pioneer tools and billy cans, my son Charles, Antão, and I set out prospecting in this new quarter.

"Little canvassing was done in the first week of travel. But, striking a small, bizarre-looking, country fair by the wayside, just when we were pressed for time, we stood up in our car to speak, and sold quite a good number of books in half an hour or so. The usual farmhouse meetings were held nearly every night.

"A day or two later travel became very heavy

and the axe and pick were in constant use for several weeks. When trying to cross a large river, it proved deeper than we had expected, and the car stopped in the middle, with water up to our feet in the car and a rainstorm well in sight. However, all the available men of a nearby village swarmed down the banks, and dragged us high and dry, and seemed well satisfied with a Gospel each for their trouble.

"Eventually we entered the important central city of Barra da Corda, to the music of a terrific thunderstorm. Here, to my astonishment, I found a gospel work that has been carried on



CROSSING A RIVER—TICKLISH BUSINESS

for thirty years by an unheard-of man from Toronto named Perrin Smith. Without help of any kind from church or society, he has been used of God to accomplish about the finest piece of pioneer evangelistic work I have met with in Brazil. Drawn by what he had heard of the dire needs of north Brazil, he abandoned his visions of China's millions, and realizing on what property he possessed, he set out alone to the land of his choice, and found his field right in the heart of the state of Maranhão. Soon he was engaged in an intensive evangelization of a great area calling for long and arduous journeys on horseback, over difficult and little known trails. Everywhere the message was given—in farmsteads, villages and towns and nearly always in the open air, as still is his custom. His labors have been so abundant and so blessed, that now he can make journeys of many weeks' duration, yet every night can rest in the home of some believer or other.

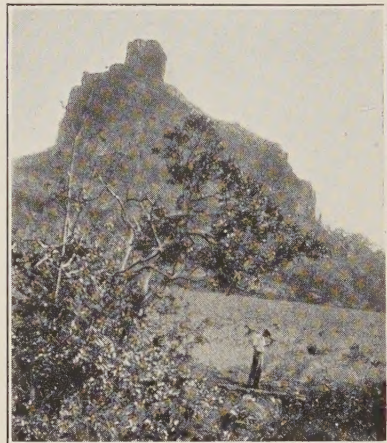
"His visible resources exhausted, aided by

Dr. Tucker, Agent of the American Bible Society, he supported the work for some time by engaging in Bible colportage, and I found the country well sown with the Word of God. At the present time he is able to carry on, and to support several native workers, by selling milk and honey in the city of Barra, where he is now highly respected, being once approached to accept the office of mayor of the town, which he declined. It was good to be able to strengthen the hands of this man of God in this isolated spot. Bidding a loathful farewell to beautiful Carolina—another station—we turned homeward by a more westerly course, and far and near I found that the name of the little, grey-headed Canadian gentleman who works at Carolina was known and respected by friend and foe.

"One morning at daybreak, just as we were leaving the outskirts of a village where we had spent the night, I noticed a large group of men and women standing in the pathway ahead. I thought it was one of the usual groups we often met, who were anxious for a glimpse of the rarely seen world's wonder,—a motor car,—and I was surprised when an old man in the group held up his hand, and called on us to stop. Still more did I wonder when, addressing me, he asked if we were 'believers.' On replying in the affirmative, the old man exclaimed with evident joy, 'And so are we all here.' A little roadside meeting resulted, with prayer, and they broke the impressive silence that followed by spontaneously striking up a hymn, which, under the circumstances, moved me profoundly. The refrain was 'Oh, make me brave to confess thee, Lord Jesus, and to trust in thy love evermore.' There was a true gospel shine about the brave little band, which is one of the results of the ministry of Perrin Smith. A few more words, an embrace all round, and we were soon buried in the forest again.

"We struck the rainy season and had hard work to escape with our car. Roads were bad in places. One stretch of sixty miles of virgin

"We sold books where they had never been offered before,—Loreto for instance,—and met with unvarying good will, except from the



"Scene of one of our greatest disasters. Broken Bridge. Charles with axe examining it. No water. No dinner that night. Little sleep. But a lovely spot."

priests, who seem to fear and hate the Bible more than ever; and they best know why!

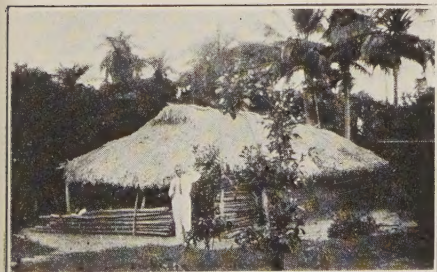
"We traversed the states of Pernambuco, Ceará, Piauí, Maranhão, and also sold Scriptures in Goyaz State. We covered just under 3,000 miles, returning by a more westerly route through Balsas and Loreto. We practically sold all our Scriptures and held many conferences. Ours was the first Pernambuco car to penetrate Maranhão, and it made a great impression everywhere."

A Rough Experience

These pages have borne glad testimony to the not infrequent, and we trust increasing, favorable attitude of Roman Catholic priests to the distribution and reading of the Word of God. We rejoice in making known such facts. We, also, regret deeply such an incident as follows. But it seems only right that such, too, should occasionally be made known. The story is given in the words of Dr. Tucker's trusted correspondent and coworker.

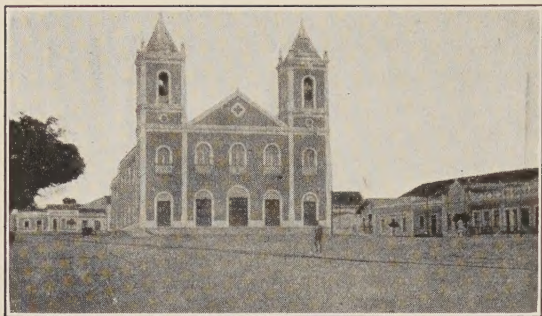
"Our bright-faced and tactful colporteur Adolpho Pessoa took advantage of the fair at Pesqueira, the big inland city of Pernambuco state, to spread his books tastefully on a ground cloth and proceed to speak of the worth of the Bible and the need to read the Gospels; while he extolled the blessing that would invariably follow an examination of the Scriptures.

"The local priests of this fanatical town soon heard of what was going on, and hurried to the spot. The colporteur was sternly rebuked and told he could not sell such books there. Adolpho smilingly replied that he was doing his duty, and was guaranteed by the law of the land, as a Brazilian citizen. At once one of the priests,



A
BIBLE
SCHOOL
IN
THE
INTERIOR

forest took sixteen hours to cut through, and in one day alone we mended fifteen bridges and only went through two!

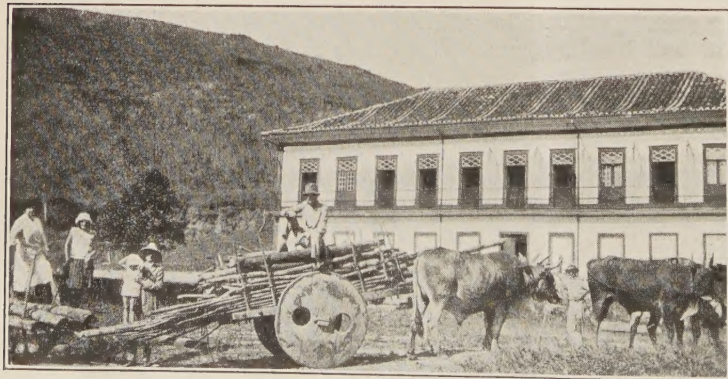


THE SQUARE WHERE THE ATTACK WAS MADE

blind in one eye, named Amancio, mounted a box, harangued the rapidly assembling multitude, and stirred up their fanatical hatred against God's servant, the Bible colporteur, who nevertheless refused to stop his work. 'Enough,' screamed the infuriated priest. 'We have no time to lose. Beat him.' The fanatical crowd at once fell on the defenceless man as though he were the vilest criminal. They tore his coat from his back, destroyed his hat and bag, and tore up all his books. Belabored with sticks and stones, he managed to tear free from the terrible mob and fled for his life, pursued by all. Many shopkeepers jumped their counters to lend a hand in the brutal work.

"Adolpho was now hard beset. Panting and exhausted, he was about to fall into the hands of his would-be murderers, when he saw a soldier in a shop. Rushing in, he appealed for protection. The brave soldier drew his saber and held up the terrible mob, and Adolpho was saved.

"The priest Amancio is still at liberty. No compensation has been made, not even for the material loss incurred of nearly 300\$000. The people are given to understand that the law



HOUSE OF THE FARMER EMPLOYER

tolerates such behavior. The soldier who intervened was even imprisoned for meddling in the matter. Though this infamous and coward-

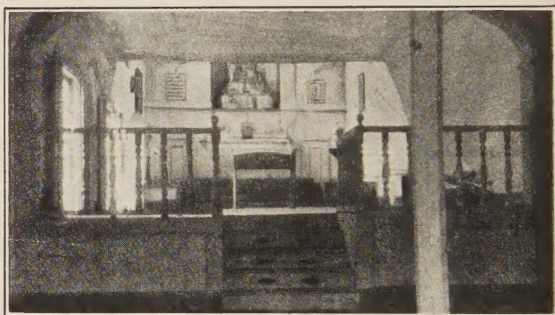
ly crime was committed on November 20, 1930, no justice is forthcoming."

Seed Dropped by the Wayside

Persecution is endured and pioneering carried on for the same great end—the sowing of the Seed, the harvest of which is Life—present and eternal. Here is a good illustration from another correspondent-evangelist:

"The evangelical congregation of the town of Vassouras, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, now and then distributes free among the people little Gospels, using for this blessed work the children of the Sunday school. The distribution is made not only to the people passing through the streets, but also out on the country roads.

"It was on one of these roads called Widows' Hill that the incident which I relate took place. Some one, we do not know whom, after receiv-



ALTAR OF CHAPEL USED FOR SERVICES

ing one of these little Gospels, crumpled it up and threw it down on the road. A few minutes after, a farm laborer was passing by. His attention was attracted by the little book on the ground. He picked it up, began reading, and was deeply impressed. On the flyleaf was the address of the congregation in the town. He came to ask for information, for the people said it was a Protestant book. We had the delightful privilege of receiving this man, of talking with him of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of leading him to the feet of the Redeemer.

"He had been a Roman Catholic and was much given to witchcraft. He has a family; but due to constant excessive use of alcohol he and his wife lived in serious difficulties, and all the family was poorly clad and fed. The farmer on whose land he lived was not at all satisfied with him and was threatening to send him away.

"But see the change! The man accepted Christ as his Saviour. He left off drinking, gambling and smoking, and felt happy as a Christian. His wife also, another unfortunate victim of drink, followed him in this happy step and became happy and grateful in the Lord Jesus. Their home took on a different aspect. Instead of the revolver and the bottle, there is now there the Bible and the hymn book. On Sundays this family, a short time ago worthless and dressed in dirty rags, comes to the house of prayer, no longer in that condition, but all well dressed and nicely behaved, causing admiration among all in the neighborhood. The farmer, deeply impressed with the change that has taken place with them, compliments the man, once an undesirable, no longer wishes him to leave his farm, and places great confidence in him. In fact, he sent word to the congregation at Vassouras that he is so much impressed with the conversion of this man and his family, that he would like to have only evangelical believers as laborers on his farm. He has on his farm

a beautiful chapel, which he now offers for evangelical worship.

"This laborer and his wife today, by the grace of God, are members in full communion in the church at Vassouras, and they do not stop at any sacrifices for their Lord, to whom they know how to be grateful. Their children are active members of the Sunday school. Their neighbors are hearing the preaching of the gospel. This work is the result of one little Gospel found in a public road.

"This incident happened recently; all the persons referred to are alive and working self-sacrificingly for the cause of the Master."

This correspondent sent in a neatly prepared report giving the names of fourteen persons who, in connection with Bible Sunday in December, sold copies of the Scriptures, and the names and addresses of 36 persons who bought copies—6 Bibles and 30 New Testaments. Their offerings for the work of the American Bible Society on Bible Sunday amounted to \$3400 or over one dollar.

Devotion, Sacrifice, and Reward

By the Rev. M. B. Porter, Secretary, South Atlantic Agency

ONE of the greatest manifestations of God's goodness has been the privilege we have of sending the light of his Word into thousands of darkened lives, and the comforts of his Truth into hundreds of needy homes and saddened hearts. Our reward is the consciousness that we may have helped him to have his kingdom come and his will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. In this work some of our richest experiences come through the devotion and sacrifice of some of our coworkers, and also of many whom we have served.

Go ye into all the world and teach

There are a great many commands given with a promise, and the promise to the teacher is one of the most comforting, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." The dear woman who writes the following letter must have thought long and earnestly on this before she gave up a good position to go into the mountains and minister to the poor and ignorant, teaching them how to live here, and hereafter. We let her tell her story in her own words. Nothing we can say would add to it.

"Most kind brother,

"I don't quite understand; am I to pay for the Bibles and Testaments sent to me? If so, I am sad. I am extremely poor, a widow sixty-four years old, all alone, and working among the poorest people I have ever met in my life.

They are all religiously inclined; but many, very many have no Bibles at all. I am an old school-teacher, and have been a home mission-



A MOUNTAIN HOME

ary for forty-six years. A mountaineer, raised one mile from where I now live, met me in Florida two years ago, and begged me to come as a missionary to this section. I was a full-time Bible teacher in Miami; but I am glad God called me to this extremely needy field.

"My holdback is cash. No church sent me. All the support I have is small donations sent me by friends. I raised and canned 157 quarts of fruit and vegetables; so my living is partly secured. I am almost barefooted now, but the person who sent me the package of Bibles enclosed in an envelope \$2 'from a friend.' I

never saw money look dearer to me in my memory. For I have been without oil for my lamp, and I live alone and a mile from my nearest neighbor, and I hate to be without a lamplight. But despite all of this, I am glad to be with these poor people. They need my help.

"I teach the old men and women to read, as well as the younger grown-ups. I do not work with the children; for they go to public school. The grown-ups are hungering for the Word of God, and want to read for themselves.

"It is amazing how news travels in these hills and mountains. The day I received the Bibles, five people came to my house begging me to give them a Bible. I dare say I can find a hundred homes in ten miles which have no form of God's Word in them. It is beyond any hopes for these poor natives to pay for the Bibles. I just can't tell you of their poverty. It is pitiful. I was afraid to tell them I would give them a Bible, until I could be sure they were a gift from your great Society; for neither could I pay for them. I have neither silver nor gold, but give my life freely for a desire only to serve my fellow-man and my Saviour. I anxiously await a reply from you, and, if they are a gift, what a joy it will be to pass them on to my neighbors and friends!"

She had the joy; for the Bibles were made a gift.

Who, What, Where, When, and Why of the Night Schools

Adult elementary education work in North Carolina had its inception in Buncombe County, in 1919. At that time, a survey of the county revealed 7,000 illiterates, two thirds of whom are white. During the past ten years over 6,000 of these persons have been taught to read and write, and many have reached much higher attainment.

The work has been done as part of the public school program, with active co-operation of the civic, patriotic, and social organizations. It has not been expensive, and it has helped to increase prosperity, health, and happiness in the county.

During the past four years the State Literacy Commission appointed by the governor, the clubwomen of North Carolina, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Colo-

nial Dames have been extending throughout the state efforts in the removal of illiteracy. Efficient work has been done in five counties.

The pupils who attend these schools have the spirit of the Crusaders. They have found an experience so wonderful that they must pass it on to others. So they are constantly on the alert to find new scholars—and they emphasize very strongly the fact that those who study will receive the Holy Bible as a gift just as soon as they can read. One teacher says the prospect of having a Bible has been the greatest inspiration for achievement, and without it the attendance would have been cut in half. It is a proud day for some of the old folk when they can stand up before the class and read the Twenty-third Psalm, or some other loved passage.

One man, forty years old, told me he had attended for six years in succession without missing a night. "And you can't guess why I was so attentive. I have eight children, and I am trying to win a Bible for all of them. I have won six. Now I have two more years to go; but I'll win them. And what I have learned will stick by me through life. I am a better citizen, a better man, and I think better of myself."

These are wonderful folk. Their natural embarrassment is overcome by their zeal. Nothing is too difficult for them to undertake for their cause. Their good Anglo-Saxon blood gives to these men and women a poise and forthrightness that invariably is noted by thoughtful visitors at the night schools; and, blessed with a sense of humor, they do not take themselves too seriously.

A similar work is being done in three other states in our territory.

A Pilgrimage to Washington, D. C.

Possibly this heading does not mean a thing to you, dear readers. But, if you could stand in the place I stood and witness the sight I saw, then you would realize what such a trip meant to nearly a hundred men and women, ranging in age from twenty-five to seventy-five years. Many of them had never been twenty miles away from home.

It was a cold, rainy spell, and most of the women had on spring coats, the men without any topcoats, hardly an overshoe in the crowd, a few umbrellas; for they were traveling by bus and could have but little luggage,—but when did country people ever feel the need of much luggage? In spite of the discomforts, I have never seen a more enthusiastic sight-seeing crowd. Some of them had saved all the year for the trip; others had been given money by the chamber of commerce for special achievements in study.

One dear woman won the trip for being the



"SHE WORKED
VERY HARD TO
WIN THIS
BIBLE"

best letter writer in her class. Her inspiration to learn to write was that she might write to her married daughter living in a distant city. She said, "I am just plumb tired of having my neighbor read my letters from my girl, and write my letters to her; for then they know all our business. So I was determined I would learn to write. But I didn't know I was going on this here trip to Washington."

She was speaking to the First Lady of the Land; for Mrs. Hoover, while she had had a fall and was confined to her couch, with all her gracious hospitality received this great number of friends in her private sitting room, and talked to them just as if they were her next door neighbors—which in truth they are. Mrs. Hoover asked them questions about their families, about their schools, and the kind of books they read. She said, "I have been informed

graph album in and asked the President to sign his name in it. For some reason Mr. Hoover did not do it. The man wrote on a piece of paper and sent it with the album back: "I came near losing my job because I voted for you. In years to come I want to show this book to my children and tell them about my one and only trip to Washington, when the President received us and signed his name in my book,—and that don't seem to be asking much, Mr. President, and I wish you would do it for me." His plea was successful.

As revealed in all our recent annual reports, we of the Bible Society have been particularly interested in the night schools. To have had some part in such a great work of making better citizens, more intelligent parents, and happier men and women, brings its own reward.

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Our Cover Picture

AN attractive photogravure reproduction of a painting by David Bruce Conklin has been the basis for our cover picture this month. It was presented to the Bible Society recently by Mr. H. E. Geib, with an interesting account of the origin of the painting. The artist was the father of Mrs. Geib. When a little girl, she and her sisters were looking for pictures in his library books and magazines. Happening in, his attention as a painter was arrested by the artistic disarray on the library table, and his attention as a thoughtful Christian caught by the position of the Bible. The painting resulted. The picture is still suggestive. To the Bible belongs the outstanding position among all literature symbolically accorded it in this picture. It should be an object of respect. It should not be an object of neglect. It endures amid the coming and the passing of many books, magazines, and papers. It is in place anywhere and everywhere. It is something substantial and not ephemeral. All this, and much more, because it is more than a man-made book.

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The Influence of an Open Bible

By the Rev. Paul Penzotti, Secretary, La Plata Agency

DURING a recent visit to the city of Paraná, in the state of Entre Rios, I had the opportunity of visiting the very interesting work of the Adventist Church in that state. They have a very large college, where nearly 200 young people are trained for Christian work in this country.

While there, I had the invitation of one of the leading notaries public of that city to visit

his home. He wanted to add his testimony to the many that we have received this year, of the power of the Bible in the conversion of men. He was very enthusiastic in his praise of our work. He has the custom of keeping always an open Bible on his desk. He wants everybody who comes to his office to know that he is a Christian.

He often noticed that one of his clerks would



THIS
MOTHER
OF
ELEVEN
CHILDREN
LEARNED
TO READ.
SHE WON
THE BIBLE
DESIRED
AND A
FREE TRIP
TO
WASHINGTON

that each pupil is given a Bible by the American Bible Society, and that the Bible is part of the regular course of study. I can only say that in the Bible you have the best literature in the world. Read it, study it, and make it a part of your daily life."

Mr. Hoover received the entire delegation and shook hands with them. The city was opened to them and many courtesies shown them, which likely would have been denied others. An amusing little incident happened. One tall, gaunt mountain fellow sent his auto-

leave his work frequently and glance over the Book, and thought that he saw in the young man's face a certain smile of scorn, and felt inclined to ask him to leave the Book and return to his work. But he did not do so. The young man read the Bible quite often.

Some two months ago, the young man was taken very ill with tuberculosis and was sent immediately to the Córdoba Hills to recuperate. Two weeks before I reached Paraná, the notary public received an urgent telegram requesting him to go at once to the hills, as the young man was dying. On reaching his bedside, the dying man said to him: "I want you to read to

me from that book that has so often spoken to my soul. It is the best book I have ever read." The notary public immediately took out his Bible from his pocket and read to the young man, who professed conversion and died happily.

I have heard this man preach in Paraná, and he often refers to the effect the Bible had on the life of his employee. It was a great pleasure for me to visit him and see on his desk his large Bible always open,—a testimony to the power of the gospel of Christ, which is being preached all over this country by our faithful colporteurs.

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

EDITORS*The Secretaries*

NEW YORK, APRIL, 1931

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

INSTITUTED 1816

Bible House, Astor Place, New York

NOTICE—The one hundred and fifteenth Annual Meeting of the American Bible Society will be held in New York City, at the Bible House, Astor Place, on Thursday, May 14, at 3:30 p. m. Members of the Society and delegates from Auxiliaries are cordially invited to attend.

THE American Bible Society was instituted in 1816 with the sole object of encouraging wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment.

Its program is world-wide and includes the *translation* of the Scriptures into the languages and common dialects of the people; the *publication* of the Scriptures in styles suitable and convenient, and at the lowest possible cost; the *distribution* of the Scriptures throughout the world at cost or free, as a missionary program.

Membership in the Society consists of four classes, each with its special privileges:

1. Annual Members are constituted by an annual subscription of \$5.00.
2. Life Members are constituted by a subscription of \$50.00 at one time.
3. Life Directors are constituted by a subscription of \$150.00 in one or two payments.
4. Memorial Members are constituted by a contribution of \$100.00. The contributor names the one in whose memory the Membership is created. The Bible is distributed through the years in memory of such a person.

Handsome engraved certificates are presented to Life Directors and Life Members.

MARCH MEETING OF THE BOARD

THE eleventh stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and fifteenth year was held at the Bible House, Astor Place, New York, on Thursday, March 5, 1931, at 3:30 o'clock p. m., Vice-President Henry S. Stearns, M. D., presiding.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. R. S. Inglis, D.D.

The minutes of the tenth stated meeting of the year were presented and approved.

The death on February 9, 1931, of Dr. John Willis Baer, a Vice-President of the Society, was reported, and the chair was requested to appoint a committee to prepare a memorial minute.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved.

Grants to foreign Bible Societies and to American missions working in foreign lands were authorized, and payments to foreign co-operative movements with which the American Bible Society has relation.

A list of conditional appropriations, to be disbursed if and when monies specifically contributed for them or made available by a prior meeting of all other appropriations, was approved, some having to do with translations and versions, others with work in foreign lands, and others with work in the United States.

The Treasurer reported the following consignments to Foreign Agencies during the month of January, 1931: Brazil, 2,890 volumes, valued at \$2,182.80; Caribbean, 31 volumes, valued at \$29.80; Japan, 2,620 volumes, valued at \$60.36; La Plata, 121,410 volumes, valued at \$2,218.49; Philippines, 11,309 volumes, valued at \$359.20; Upper Andes, 1,434 volumes, valued at \$1,049.33; West Indies, 101 volumes, valued at \$21.17; total volumes, 139,795; total value, \$5,921.15.

The issues from the Bible House during the month of January were 513,856 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

CASH RECEIPTS IN FEBRUARY, 1931

LEGACIES

Farnham, Luther, Boston, Mass.	\$ 796 36
Mishaw, Elizabeth L., Washington, D. C.	2,566 34
Orr, George A., Lawrence, Kans.	1,272 56
Pickop, Elizabeth W., Philadelphia, Pa.	2,492 04
Rising, Kate C., Hollywood, Cal.	608 81
Thomson, H. C., Los Angeles, Calif.	63 05
Yule, Florence, Chicago, Ill.	113 50
	<u>\$7,912 66</u>

ANNUITY GIFTS

Amount received during the month	\$19,100 00
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AUXILIARY SOCIETIES

	Received on Donation Book Account	
Buffalo City and Erie Co., N. Y.	\$ 667 09	
Emporia Welsh, Kans.	\$320 00	
Massachusetts	300 00	
Menard Co., Ill.	2 00	
New Bedford, Mass.	25 45	
New York	25 30	
Orange Co., N. Y.	300 00	
Rhode Island	37 19	
St. Louis, Mo.	290 49	
Utica and Vicinity Welsh, N. Y.	75 00	3 84
		<u>\$1,390 01</u>

On Donation Account	\$ 695 00
	<u>\$2,085 01</u>

HOME AGENCIES

Atlantic	\$3,731 39
Central	1,744 04
Colored	1,107 89
Eastern	3,042 22
National Capital	471 06
Northwestern	3,397 38
Pacific	3,310 26
South Atlantic	1,225 38
Southwestern	1,971 11
Western	1,354 60
	<u>\$21,355 33</u>

From Home Agencies and Included in Home Agencies' Receipts

Donations from Auxiliary Bible Societies:	
Pennsylvania	\$366 50
Gifts from Churches	582 89
Gifts from Individuals	476 78

RETURNS FROM SCRIPTURES DONATED

Board of National Missions, Presby. Church..	\$ 14 83
Fithian, Emma I.	32
London Missionary Society	1,215 00
	<u>\$1,230 15</u>

RECAPITULATION

Legacies	\$ 7,912 66
Annuity Gifts	19,100 00

Auxiliary Societies on Donation Account	\$ 695 00
Auxiliary Societies on Book Account	1,390 01
Home Agencies	21,355 33
Returns from Scriptures Donated	1,230 15
	<u>\$51,683 15</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

Annuity Department.....	\$ 238 65
Bible House Rentals.....	10,192 08
Bible Society Record.....	6 64
Diffusion of Information	2 50
Funds for Transmission	193 65
General Salaries and Expenses	4 96
Gifts for the Blind:	
From Churches	\$7.00
From Individuals	\$209.00
Gifts from Churches.....	9,252 39
Gifts from Individuals.....	12,328 37
Income from Available Investments	99 21
Income from Legacies and Gifts, Trust Funds and Legacy Equalization Fund	30 00
Fund	989 99
Manufacturing Credits.....	223 82
Special Annuity Income and Expense	58 25
The Trade	556 51
Trust Funds subject to Life Interest	1,475 00
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund Investment..	60 00
	<u>\$35,928 02</u>
Total Cash Receipts..	<u>\$87,611 17</u>

CASH STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY, 1931

GENERAL CASH STATEMENT

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Balance from January, 1931.....	\$45,239 69	Bills of Exchange.....	\$12,038 21
Home Agencies	21,355 33	General Salaries and Expenses.....	4,638 28
Auxiliaries	1,390 01	Treasurer's Office—Salaries and Expenses..	1,479 74
Trade	556 51	Bible House Expenses.....	7,476 44
Manufacturing Credits	223 82	Appeals	1,919 48
Bible Society Record.....	6 64	Diffusion of Information.....	2,076 06
Bible House Rentals.....	10,192 08	Annuity Department	19,969 43
Gifts from Auxiliaries.....	695 00	Bible Society Record.....	199 14
Gifts from Churches.....	9,252 39	Blind Fund	100 00
Gifts from Individuals.....	12,328 37	Cash Reserved for Publication Department	10,000 00
Gifts for Distribution to Blind.....	216 00	Home Agencies	12,954 95
Annuity Gifts	19,100 00	Foreign Agencies	4,274 94
Legacies	7,912 66	Funds Received for Transmission.....	147 01
Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	30 00	Miscellaneous Home	589 80
Income from Available Investments.....	99 21	Miscellaneous Foreign	135 69
Wragg, Rev. and Mrs. J. P., Fund Invested	60 00	Church Budget Costs.....	207 42
Trust Funds Subject to Life Interest.....	1,475 00	Legacy Equalization Fund.....	111 19
Legacy Equalization Fund.....	989 99	Legacy Expenses	18 80
Funds Received for Transmission.....	193 65	Library	22 30
Special Annuity Income and Expense.....	58 25	Pensions	316 66
General Salaries and Expenses.....	4 96	Income from Legacies and Gifts—Trust Funds	590 63
Diffusion of Information.....	2 50	Special Annuity Income and Expense.....	93 25
Annuity Department	238 65	Translation and Revision.....	80 00
Returns from Scriptures Donated.....	1,230 15	Balance to March, 1931.....	53,411 44
	<u>\$132,850 86</u>		<u>\$132,850 86</u>

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT CASH STATEMENT

Balance from January, 1931.....	\$47,557 67	Publication Department.....	\$22,083 74
Transferred from General Cash.....	10,000 00	Balance to March, 1931.....	35,473 93
	<u>\$57,557 67</u>		<u>\$57,557 67</u>

Total Cash Balance.....\$88,885 37

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